

Frequently Asked Questions



- 1. Where is the project located?** On Highway 68 from Reservation Road to Work Street.
- 2. How many miles long is the project?** 5.2 miles.
- 3. When will the project begin construction?** October/November 2004.
- 4. When will the project be completed?** Spring 2006, weather permitting.
- 5. What is the project cost?** Estimated \$12 million.
- 6. What funds are paying for the project?** This is a SHOPP (State Highway Operation and Protection Program) project, which is funded from the State Highway Account.
- 7. Describe main work elements of the project.** Repave Main Street and overlay rural section; remove and reconstruct sidewalks to comply with ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) guidelines; remove and replace curbs and gutters; and upgrade drainage inlets and signalization; stripe for Class 2 bicycle lane from Stephanie Drive to San Joaquin Street; and replace about 35 magnolia trees on Main Street with *Tristania confertas* (Brisbane Box), and about three magnolias on John Street with *Quercus suber* (cork oak) of the same height and box-type. They will probably be about 6 to 8 feet tall when planted.
- 8. Does the project include widening the highway?** It includes some minimal widening of outside highway shoulders in the project's rural section. At Blanco Road, the right-hand turn lane will be widened along with the shoulders.
- 9. What are the criteria for replacing trees?** Trees are replaced if one or more of the following conditions exist: the sidewalk, curb or gutter must be rebuilt, and the tree's health would be significantly impacted; the tree has limited life span due to vehicle collision damage or poor general health; or the tree will potentially damage the new sidewalk due to existing roots, and root pruning would be too extensive to sustain the tree.
- 10. Why are the magnolias being replaced with Brisbane Box and cork oak?** The City of Salinas and Caltrans collaboratively chose these trees for the following reasons: physical similarities to the magnolia, compatibility to the area and climate, and low maintenance requirements.
- 11. Is a certified arborist involved with the project?** Yes. An ISA (International Society of Arborists) certified arborist is overseeing the pruning of existing plants and trees.
- 12. Where will construction begin?** The work will be done in nine stages, beginning at Highway 68 and Reservation Road, and Main Street.
- 13. Will there be any lane closures during construction?** Yes. However, one lane in both directions will remain open at all times. When possible, a turning lane will be provided.

For project updates, or more information, please call
Susana Zavala, Caltrans public information officer, at 831-753-0187.

